

NEW JERSEY MILITIA NEWSLETTER

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All persons are by nature free and independent, and have certain natural and unalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and of pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness.

-- Article 1, Section 1, New Jersey State Constitution

What Happened In Oshkosh and Why Gun Owners Should Care

On July 17 an unknown shooter wounded an Oshkosh, Wisconsin, police officer, and then faded into the night.

The Oshkosh police then evacuated a several block area. Though officers got consent to search homes, once inside they confiscated firearms -- without warrants, without consent, without probable cause. Residents returned to homes that appeared to have been "tossed" by burglars and found their guns missing.

Activist gun owners are up in arms -- as they should be. The Oshkosh police obviously behaved outrageously. Whether the unconstitutional confiscations were department policy, superior officers' orders, or screwups by incompetently dangerous cops who neither knew nor cared anything about the Fourth Amendment, those confiscations were unAmerican in the deepest sense. In fact, they were anti-American.

But frankly, it's hard to defend citizens who are so deeply in denial that -- in this day of anti-gun hysteria and ninjafication of American police -- they'd open their doors and willingly let police rifle through their possessions. ***Those victimized residents also have a responsibility as citizens, as Americans. And they failed in their responsibility as seriously as the police did.***

It's entirely possible that this police action was a trial balloon for larger-scale confiscations. Even if it was an isolated incident, it sets a dangerous precedent. It tells other police agencies -- and the federal agencies who are working to militarize

them -- just what people in the American heartland will tolerate.

Who authorized the gun seizures? Why did officers conduct them? We need to understand the mentality behind such "all guns are bad, all people are guilty" attitudes. Remember, this is the attitude of men and women who claim to be our protectors yet whose hatred and suspicion of us runs deep -- and all too often, runs uncontrolled.

We strongly suggest that you read a slender book called *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland* by Christopher R. Browning. This is the story of how a group of perfectly ordinary middle-aged German men, too old for the army, carried out a horrific mass slaughter of innocents. They did it because they were asked (not ordered) to. They did it because they didn't want to let down their fellow police officers. They did it because they, like so many American police officers today, put their security or their pension above their morality. A few probably even did it because they enjoyed it. If you want to see the mentality that's increasingly overtaking American police, read this book.

If citizens won't put limits on police, who will? The police will never police themselves. They'll never limit their own desire for more power, more authority, more control, more obedience.

We believe -- we hope -- that the average JPFO member would know better than to consent to a warrantless search. But we also despair. We've seen well-informed people bend under the frightening force of the police. And we have to face the fact that the vast majority of Americans

choose to close their eyes to the incipient police state around them.

Three years ago, we published *The State vs. the People: The Rise of the American Police State* (<http://www.jpfo.org/tsvtp.htm>). The residents of that Oshkosh neighborhood either didn't read it or chose not to believe the evidence.

How long have we been promoting the Bill of Rights? The residents of Oshkosh paid no attention.

Did the victims of the Oshkosh raids have any understanding of history, as expressed in the documentary film *Innocents Betrayed?* (<http://www.jpfo.org/ib.htm>) Or were they too busy watching TV shows in which most cops -- including brutal ones -- are heroes?

The ultimate lesson of the Oshkosh gun confiscations is that "it CAN happen here." Unfortunately, this is a lesson we've failed to learn. We should have learned it when the U.S. Army attacked the Bonus Marchers in during the Depression; when the federal government rounded up peaceable Japanese-Americans and thrust them into barren camps; when National Guardsmen fired on students at Kent State. We should have learned it at Ruby Ridge, at Waco.

The violence and violation of rights escalate. The majority of Americans -- even those like the residents of Oshkosh who stare brutality and injustice right in the face -- choose to let tyranny roll on.

-- ALERT from Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership, America's Aggressive Civil Rights Organization, August 5, 2004

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Tyranny in form is the first step towards tyranny in substance. – Senator John Taylor, 1822

Step to the Rear, M-16

By Kristen Alloway

The XM8, the Army's new super-gun, is at least four weapons in one.

It's a rifle. It's a pistol. It's a grenade launcher. It's a machine gun.

One of the weapons being developed at Picatinny Arsenal, NJ is all those things, and it is lighter and easier to use than the M-16 rifle that soldiers have carried since the Vietnam War, according to the Army.

The military is considering replacing the M-16 with the XM8 – that can be adapted depending on the soldier's location and mission.

"It's almost like a set of Legos," said Lt. Col. Matthew Clarke, the officer in charge of the XM8 project. "You can click it together and make it anything you want."

One of the XM8's selling points is its ability to change from a rifle to a shorter-barreled carbine to a grenade launcher or a machine gun.

A soldier in Afghanistan might need a weapon that can fire a quarter-mile across valleys, but troops in Iraq might face close combat in cities. By snapping on a new barrel, the XM8 can be changed to be used in either scenario.

The XM8 is shorter, lighter and easier to clean and maintain than its predecessor.

Testing on the XM8 will continue this fall. If the XM8 gets the green light, it could be distributed to 40,000 soldiers by next summer, said Col. Mike Smith, who oversees Picatinny's development and improvement of rifles.

That might not be soon enough for some troops.

Soldiers in Iraq have complained that their 3-foot long M-16s are too big to handle and fire while they are driving. By changing the gun barrel, the XM8 can shrink to 20 inches.

The XM8 will also be easier to maintain, as it is able to fire 15,000 to 20,000 rounds between cleaning, versus 6,000 to 9,000 rounds with the old rifle.

The main complaint with the XM8 is that it fires the same diameter 5.56 mm bullets as the M-16. Those are not as powerful as the 7.62 mm slugs fired by the Russian AK-47, the rifle touted by Iraqi insurgents and the Taliban.

Also on display at the arsenal yesterday were nonlethal weapons that have been sent to Iraq and Afghanistan. The assortment of sponge grenades, high-intensity flashlights and flash-bang grenades are meant to control crowds.

A remote-controlled rocket launcher and a remote-controlled grenade launcher, each mounted on a small tracked platform, were also on display at the open house.

-- *Star-Ledger*, July 23, 2004

Kerry and Guns

Searching for a post-convention boost, Sen. John Kerry told a recent Pennsylvania rally, "I've been a hunter since I was about 12 years old, and I went through the whole progression, you know, BB gun to 22s to 30-30, you name it."

In reality -- you know, the realm in which presidential candidates are *supposed* to campaign -- Kerry generally votes *against* gun rights, supports extending the disingenuous ban on assault-type weapons, and wants to close the mythical "gun show loophole," according to the NRA.

Immunity for gun makers facing frivolous civil lawsuits? No way.

"Kerry is the poster boy for a secret scheme hatched by billionaire Andrew McKelvey's Americans for Gun Safety, whereby anti-gun rights Democratic candidates cloak themselves in rhetorical camouflage, falsely claiming to embrace the Second Amendment and trying to con hunters into believing that their rights are somehow separate from those of other American gun owners," says the NRA's Wayne LaPierre.

When it comes to advocating gun rights, John Kerry is a lame sheep in wolf's clothing. -- *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, Aug. 8, 2004

Government Loses on Commerce Clause Ploy

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that the federal government cannot prosecute an Arizona man who assembled and kept a machine gun at his home but never bought or sold it.

United States v. Stewart, 03 C.D.O.S. 9805, is the latest 9th Circuit case applying the Supreme Court's Commerce Clause rulings. In continuing to push that jurisprudence in bold new directions, the court may be a step closer to handing the government a loss in another significant area -- the Justice Department's crackdown on California's

medical marijuana laws.

"Every word in it is magnificent," declared Boston University constitutional law professor Randy Barnett after reading the decision.

Robert Stewart Jr. was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms for selling .50-caliber rifle kits through the mail. But the kits were delivered incomplete -- buyers had to do some machining to turn them into an illegal weapon. When agents raided his home they found numerous guns, including the machine gun in question. The government decided to drop the rifle kit case and instead indicted Stewart for possession of a machine gun.

But Stewart had assembled the machine gun himself, using parts from a variety of sources. And there was no evidence that he intended to sell the gun.

The government argued that because parts of the gun were once in commerce, the Commerce Clause justified the conviction. However, in *United States v. McCoy*, 323 F.3d 1114, the 9th Circuit recently struck a child pornography conviction, saying the fact that the camera and film had once been in commerce wasn't enough -- the picture itself must have commercial implications.

Judge Alex Kozinski agreed with the logic of *McCoy*.

"At some level, of course, everything we own is composed of something that once traveled in commerce. This cannot mean that everything is subject to federal regulation under the Commerce Clause, else that constitutional limitation would be entirely meaningless," Kozinski wrote.

-- *The Recorder*, Nov. 17, 2003

The Flawed Concept of Government-Licensed Concealed Carry

Less than a week after the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* published Bill Singleton's name among a list of people who have chosen to obtain a license to bear arms for self-defense, Mr. Singleton is dead.

When three robbers came to Singleton's business they allegedly shot him before he had time to react to their demands.

Cleveland police said Singleton was shot once in the chest, and he shot 17-year-old Rhyann Ikner once in the head. The two accomplices that witnesses saw with Ikner have not been

In the beginning of change the patriot is a scarce man, brave, hated and scorned. When his cause succeeds, however, the timid join him, for then it costs nothing to be a patriot. – Mark Twain

found, said police Lt. Wayne Drummond.

It is not yet known if the *Cleveland Plain Dealer's* actions even remotely played into this tragedy. But the harsh reality of the situation begs the question:

Why did editor Doug Clifton act to put people like Bill Singleton at so much risk by revealing to potential attackers that they are armed, and why do they promise to continue to do so?

Why did Doug Clifton decide that these innocent, law-abiding citizens, desperate to protect themselves from violent criminals that no gun control law or background check can stop, are the ones needing to be treated like persons of suspicion?

Initial accounts say the robbers shot first, ambush-style. Did they know Singleton was armed? Did Bill Singleton die upon Doug Clifton's altar of open records? We may never know.

If they're really interested in public safety, why doesn't the *Plain Dealer* spend its precious page space printing names of persons like these attackers, with violent criminal histories?

-- Ohioans for Concealed Carry, Aug. 4, 2004

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August 3, 2004

Bravo to *The Plain Dealer*. It is not easy making a decision that will provoke gun owners.

The publishing of the names of those who have been given permits to carry concealed weapons in nine counties in Northeast Ohio was a noble and responsible community action. Ohio legislators passed the bill this year giving an extra privilege to gun owners to be able to carry their loaded weapons in public space. That put each of us at an unwanted additional risk. The legislators did not provide a way for us to inform ourselves about those we feel put us at that risk. They allowed for the secret carrying of guns and kept the identities of those doing so secret as well.

Any privilege for a few Ohio citizens that affects the entire population should be public record. The gun carriers are not living in isolation. We have a right to know who they are so we can make informed choices.

Thanks to *The Plain Dealer* for providing the service to all of us when the government refused.

Toby Hoover, Toledo

The Flawed Concept of Gun Permits

Pitcairn Islanders have been ordered to hand their guns to British

authorities amid fears a six-week sex trial on the island could lead to violence, officials said today.

Seven Pitcairn Island men face 96 charges over allegations of sexual abuse.

Some of the alleged offenses were committed up to 40 years ago. The trials, which are due to begin on the island on September 23, have caused rising tensions in the tiny island community.

Pitcairn Deputy Governor Matthew Forbes, who is based in the New Zealand capital, Wellington, said the island's governor, British High Commissioner to New Zealand Richard Fell, had ordered residents to surrender their firearms.

If people do not hand in their guns, authorities will legislate to suspend all firearm licences on the island and guns would be taken from residents, he said.

Herb Ford, head of the California-based Pitcairn Islands Study Centre, told *The Associated Press* in an e-mail that islanders had been given until September 7 voluntarily to hand in their guns "or have police conduct a house-to-house search for firearms".

Mr Ford said islanders regularly used guns to hunt wild goats for meat, shoot breadfruit and coconuts from tall trees and occasionally to shoot sharks.

Mr Forbes said that during the trials "there are going to be large numbers of people wandering around Pitcairn who are new to the island and there could be accidents".

More than 20 court staff and media are expected on the island for the trials.

Authorities are doubling police numbers on Pitcairn from two to four, to beef up security, he said.

Just 47 people live on the speck of land halfway between New Zealand and Peru. It is 1.6km [1 mile] wide and 3.2km [2.25 miles] long. — August 4, 2004, <http://www.theadvertiser.news.com.au>

Police State USA

By Rep. Ron Paul

The latest increase in the terrorist threat warning level has led to dramatic and unprecedented restrictions on the movements of citizens. Americans wishing to visit the U.S. Capitol must, for example, pass through several checkpoints and submit to police inspection of their cars and persons.

Many Americans support the new security measures because they claim to feel safer when the government

issues terror alerts and fills the streets with militarized police forces. As one tourist said, "It makes me feel comfortable to know that everything is being checked." It is ironic that tourists coming to Washington to celebrate the freedoms embodied in the Declaration of Independence are so eager to give up those freedoms with no questions asked.

Freedom is not defined by safety. Freedom is defined by the ability of citizens to live without government interference.

Government cannot create a world without risks, nor would we really wish to live in such a fictional place. Only a totalitarian society would even claim absolute safety as a worthy ideal, because it would require total state control over its citizens' lives. This doesn't stop governments, including our own, from seeking more control over citizens' lives. As one Member of Congress stated to the press, "people who don't want to be searched don't need to come on Capitol grounds." What an insult! The Capitol belongs to the American people who pay for it, not to Congress or the police.

It is worth noting that the government rushes first to protect itself, devoting enormous resources to make places like the Capitol grounds safe, while just beyond lies one of the most dangerous neighborhoods in the nation. What makes Congress more worthy of protection from terrorists than ordinary citizens?

To understand the nature of our domestic response to the September 11th, 2001 attacks, we must understand the nature of government. Government naturally expands, and any crisis—whether real or manufactured—serve to justify more government power over our lives. Bureaucrats have used the tragedy of 9-11 as an excuse to seize police powers sought for decades, such as warrantless searches, internet monitoring, and access to bank records. It should be no surprise that the recently released report of the 9-11 Commission has but one central recommendation: bigger government and more spending at home and abroad.

Every new security measure represents another failure of the once-courageous American spirit. The more we change our lives, the more we obsess about terrorism, the more the terrorists have won. As commentator Lew Rockwell of the Ludwig von Mises Institute explains, terrorists have been elevated by our response to 9/11: "They are running the country. They determine our civic life. They shape our private life. They decide how public

resources are spent. They may dictate who gets to be the next president. It should be obvious that the government doesn't object. Not at all. The government benefits, by getting ever more reason for ever more money and power."

Every generation must resist the temptation to believe that it lives in the most dangerous time in American history. The threat of Islamic terrorism is real, but it is not the greatest danger ever faced by our nation. This is not to dismiss the threat of terrorism, but rather to put it in perspective. Those who seek to whip the nation into a frenzy of fear do a disservice to a country that expelled the British, fought two world wars, and stared down the Soviet empire. Liberty is lost through complacency and a subservient mindset. When we accept or even welcome automobile checkpoints, random searches, mandatory identification cards, and paramilitary police in our streets, we have lost a vital part of our American heritage. America was born of protest, revolution, and mistrust of government. Subservient societies neither maintain nor deserve freedom for long. -- Texas Straight Talk, www.house.gov/paul

The Strange Origin of the Pledge of Allegiance

By John W. Baer

In 1892 a socialist named Francis Bellamy created the Pledge of Allegiance for *Youth's Companion*, a national magazine published in Boston. It had the largest national circulation of its day, around 500,000. Two liberal businessmen, Daniel Ford and James Upham, his nephew, owned the *Youth's Companion*.

Prior to 1888 the American flag was rarely seen in the classroom or in front of the school. But in that year the *Youth's Companion* began a campaign to sell American flags to the public schools. By 1892 the magazine had sold American flags to about 26,000 schools.

In 1891 the magazine hired Baptist minister, Nationalist, and Christian Socialist leader Francis Bellamy to help Upham in his public relations work. Bellamy was the first cousin of the famous socialist Edward Bellamy, whose futuristic novel, *Looking Backward*, published in 1888, described a utopian Boston in the year 2000. The book spawned an elitist socialist movement known as "Nationalism", whose members wanted the federal government to nationalize most of the U.S. economy. Francis Bellamy was a

vice president of the Nationalist's auxiliary group, the Society of Christian Socialists. He lectured and preached on the virtues of socialism and the evils of capitalism. He gave a speech on "Jesus the Socialist" and a series of sermons on "The Socialism of the Primitive Church." In 1891, forced to resign from Boston's Bethany Baptist church because of his socialist activities, he joined the staff of the *Youth's Companion*.

By February 1892 Francis Bellamy and Upham had lined up the National Education Association to support the *Youth's Companion* as a sponsor of the public schools' observance of Columbus Day and the use of the American flag. By June Bellamy and Upham had arranged for Congress and President Benjamin Harrison to announce a national proclamation making the public school flag ceremony the center of the Columbus Day celebration.

Bellamy wrote the program for this celebration, including its flag salute, the Pledge of Allegiance. His version was:

"I pledge allegiance to my flag and to the Republic for which it stands – one nation indivisible – with liberty and justice for all."

This program and pledge appeared in the September 8 issue of *Youth's Companion*.

The pledge was recited while giving a stiff, uplifted right hand salute, criticized and discontinued during World War II. The words "my flag" were changed to "the flag of the United States of America" because it was feared that the children of immigrants might confuse "my flag" for the flag of their homeland. The phrase "under God" was added by Congress and President Eisenhower in 1954 at the urging of the Knights of Columbus.

Over the years the American Legion has worked closely with the NEA and with the U.S. Office of Education. The Legion insisted on "one hundred percent Americanism" in public school course in American history, civics, geography and English. The Pledge was part of this Americanism campaign and, in 1950, the Legion adopted the Pledge as an official part of its own ritual.

In 1922 the Ku Klux Klan, which also adopted the "one hundred percent Americanism" theme along with the flag ceremonies and the Pledge, became a political power in Oregon and arranged for legislation requiring Catholic children to attend public schools. The U.S. Supreme Court later overturned this legislation.

Perhaps social scientists and historians could explain why the Pledge of Allegiance has become a major centerpiece in American patriotism programs. A pledge or loyalty oath for children was not built around the Declaration of Independence -- "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal..." or the Gettysburg address -- "a new nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal..."

In 1992 the nation began its second century with the Pledge of Allegiance. Perhaps the time has come to see that this allegiance should be to the U.S. Constitution and not to a piece of cloth.

-- John W. Baer is a professor of economics at Anne Arundel Community College in Arnold, Maryland. This article was originally published in the Summer 1989 issue of *Propaganda Review*.

Two Groups of Middle-Eastern Invaders Caught in Cochise County, Arizona

Information officer Andy Adame, from the Border Patrol Tucson sector says, "I guarantee it's not true."

However, seasoned Border Patrol field agents have shared some disturbing information with the *Tumbleweed* with the hope the information will make it to the general public.

The *Tumbleweed* has verified that a flood of middle-eastern males have been caught entering the country illegally east of Douglas, Arizona. The increased patrols in the Huachuca Mountains area of Cochise County, seems to have diverted the flow of OTM's, "other than Mexicans" east to the Chiricahua Mountains.

Adame, who says many of the agents in the area are "green", questions why they would have shared the information with the *Tumbleweed*. "Our policy is to turn any OTM's over to the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security," Adame said in a phone call.

For reasons of National security, Adame said his agency cannot talk about the origin of nationality. However Adame says that since October 1, 2003 agents in the Tucson sector have apprehended 5,510 illegals from countries other than Mexico or other central or South American countries. Adame described them as "people from all over the world".

In the last month, the *Tumbleweed* has confirmed at least two

documented accounts of Border Patrol agents encountering large groups of non-Spanish speaking males in the Chiricahua foothills and on trails along the high mountain areas.

On or about the early morning hours of June 13, 2004 Border patrol agents from the Willcox station encountered a large group of suspected illegal border crossers, estimated to be around 158, just east of the Sanders Ranch near the foothills of the Chiricahua Mountains. 71 suspected illegal aliens were apprehended; among them were 53 males of middle-eastern descent.

According to a Border Patrol field agent, the men were suspected to be Iranian or possibly Syrian nationals. "One thing's for sure: these guys didn't speak Spanish and after we questioned them harder we discovered they spoke poor English with a middle-eastern accent; then we caught them speaking to each other in Arabic...this is ridiculous, and we're told not to say a thing to the media, but I have to," said the agent, who spoke to the *Tumbleweed* with the promise of anonymity.

Adame confirms the groups of illegals were apprehended on those dates in the same area but stated, "There were no middle easterners in the group. Every single one of them was Mexican."

The field agent stated the men were wearing the traditional uniform of migrants - baseball caps, tennis shoes, some had work boots, denim jeans and many had t-shirts with patriotic American flags and slogans. The agent added that "A curious thing I noticed was that they all had brand new clothing and they looked as if they had just been to the barber shop--you know--new haircuts. They were clean cut and they all had almost the exact same cut of mustaches."

The information was corroborated by a local rancher. The rancher reports that groups of heavily armed paramilitary drug smugglers have also been seen in the same area.

"We've had groups in the hundreds coming through again. They were gone for awhile but now they're back. And of course we have the drug mules again and many are carrying automatic weapons. Many other ranchers in the area have been frustrated with the lack of response from Border Patrol. After calling over and over again to the Willcox headquarters, we might get a response a few hours later. By the time they send in the helicopters these groups are long gone. I don't know how many they catch but

they're coming through here heavy right now."

On or about the evening of June 21, 2004, agents from the Willcox Border Patrol station apprehended 24 members of a larger group of Arabic speaking males located just east of the Pierce/Sunsites area of Cochise County. At least half of the males escaped capture and disappeared into the United States.

-- www.tomstonetumbleweed.com

Don't Talk to Cops

By a Member of the New York Bar

"Good morning! My name is investigator Holmes. Do you mind answering a few simple questions?" If you open your door one day and are greeted with those words, *stop and think!* Whether it is the local police or the FBI at your door, you have certain legal rights of which you ought to be aware before you proceed any further.

In the first place, when law enforcement authorities come to see you, there are no "simple questions." Unless they are investigating a traffic accident you can be sure that they want information about somebody. And that somebody may be you!

Rule number one to remember when confronted by the authorities is that there is no law requiring you to talk with the police, the FBI or the representative of any other investigative agency. Even the simplest questions may be loaded and the seemingly harmless bits of information which you volunteer may later become vital links in a chain of circumstantial evidence against you or a friend.

Do not invite the investigator into your home!

Such an invitation not only gives him the opportunity to look around for clues to your lifestyle, friends, reading material, etc., but also tends to prolong the conversation. And the longer the conversation, the more chance there is for a skilled investigator to find out what he wants to know.

Many times a police officer will ask you to accompany him to the police station to answer a few questions. In that case simply thank him for the invitation and indicate that you are not disposed to accept it at that time. Often the authorities will simply want to photograph a person for identification purposes, a procedure which they easily accomplish by placing a person (you!) in a private room with a two-way mirror at the station, asking him a few innocent questions, and then releasing him.

If the investigator becomes angry at your failure to cooperate and

threatens you with arrest, stand firm. He cannot legally place you under arrest or enter your home without a warrant signed by a judge. If he indicates that he has such a warrant, ask to see it. A person under arrest or located on premises to be searched generally must be shown a warrant if he requests it and must be given a chance to read it.

Without a warrant, an officer depends solely upon your helpfulness to obtain the information he wants. So, unless you are quite sure of yourself, don't be helpful.

Probably the wisest approach to take with a persistent investigator is simply to say: "I'm quite busy now. If you have any questions that you feel I can answer, I'd be happy to listen to them in my lawyer's office. Goodbye!"

Talk is cheap. But when that talk involves the law enforcement authorities, it may cost you, or someone close to you, dearly.

* * *

"Knowledge makes a man unfit to be a slave." -Frederick Douglass

Gun Control in Australia

In 1997 the United Kingdom enacted a gun ban, and crime rates soared. Australia enacted a similar ban in 1996. Like the UK and the United States, Australia is English speaking and has a bicameral legislature. This makes Australia similar enough to our form of government and culture to form a litmus test to see if what happened in Australia (and the UK) would also happen here if we enacted civilian disarmament.

As with Britain, Australia invoked massive gun control following a mass murder, where a mentally ill man used firearms to commit the crime. The government effectively banned all semi-automatic firearms. One could apply for a license, but had to show "a legitimate purpose and fitness of character ('genuine reason and need for owning, possessing or using a firearm'), conform to stringent safe storage requirements, and undertake safety training if a new licensee."

It is important to establish a pre-ban baseline and then compare it to data after the ban to determine crime trends. For this purpose, we can examine data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, as compiled and reported by the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC).

Here are some key findings about Australian crime trends for the period of 1995 (pre-ban) to 2001 (post-ban),

according to Australian Crime Facts and Figures 2002, AIC, November, 2002, page 7:

"The rate of assault has increased steadily from 563 victims per 100,000 people in 1995 to 779 per 100,000 people in 2001."

"In 2001 the rate for robbery peaked at 136 per 100,000 people—the highest recorded since 1995."

"The rate of sexual assault was 86 per 100,000 people, which is higher than any previous year."

Here is the comparison in violent crime trends between Australia and the United States for the period of 1995 to 2001, calculating rates by dividing the number of crimes reported by the population figures. (Negative trends are in parentheses.)
Homicide: AUS – (11%) US – (32%)
Assault: AUS – 39% US – (24%)
Rape: AUS – 19% US – (14%)
Robbery: AUS – 70% US – (33%)
(US data is from the FBI Uniform Crime Report)

It is interesting to note that violent crime rates are higher in Australia. Following are selected comparisons for violent crime rates per 100,000 people in 2001. While homicide is lower and robbery is similar, assault and rape occur more than twice as often in Australia, proving that when the physically weaker are barred from possessing the best tool for self-defense, they are rendered helpless. As with England, women pay the price when politicians use tragedy as an excuse to eliminate armed threat to their power.

Homicide: AUS – 1.8 US – 5.6
Assault: AUS – 779 US – 319
Rape: AUS – 86 US – 32
Robbery: AUS – 136 US – 146

Mirroring England's demonstration of John Lott's principle of the substitution effect, we find that reverse substitution is also in effect in Australia: since victims are unarmed, criminals will not expend the extra effort to plan burglary. The AIC reports:

"The rate of unlawful entry has remained relatively stable since 1995, with a small decrease recorded in 2001."

The one exception to the substitution principle is that crimes against business has increased, as the "rate of other theft (including shoplifting) has increased by 32% since 1995." This excludes motor vehicle theft, which "has remained stable since 1995." Compare this with the 20% drop in property crime in the US.

To summarize, we see a dramatic rise in violent crime in Australia since the gun ban, along with a relatively flat trend in property crime rates, demonstrating the criminals' understanding of the basic principles of cost/benefit analysis, choosing the quicker method of confronting an unarmed victim. At the same time, the US saw significant drops in both violent and property crime rates, proving the adage that an armed society is a polite --and safer--society.

English philosopher Edmund Burke said, "All that is required for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing." Again, we are faced with a choice, against which the future of this country is balanced. Do nothing about gun control, and we become subjects, as the people of England and Australia are discovering they still are. Then we progress from subjects to peasants, to serfs, to slaves, finally free from the oft-painful necessity of choice.

In America, the choice is still yours, and remember: not choosing, or not acting on that choice, is a choice for tyranny, a choice to sell your children into slavery. Choose liberty, and act by calling your Congressional representatives and tell them in no uncertain terms to let the Assault Weapons ban sunset, the first step in rolling back victimless crime laws that have benefited nobody but those who crave power.

-- Howard Nemerov is a Bay Area freelance writer who has a special interest in the preservation of the Second Amendment. Howard receives e-mail at hnemerov@netvista.net

Letters to the Editor

NJM,

Here in Massachusetts, the

state legislature foisted upon the people of the Commonwealth a "Citizen Disarmament and Crime Proliferation" law. It has worked real well. In 1998, when the law was passed, there were 21 murders in Boston. In 2001 -- 69.

In 1998, there were some 1.2 million registered gun owners in Massachusetts, today, less than 200,000.

The "Citizen Disarmament and Crime Proliferation" law also made it a felony to possess an empty cartridge case. You will spend two (2) years in a Massachusetts jail for possessing a piece of metal that has been defined as ammunition.

No other states' gun license is honored in Massachusetts. The "full faith and credit" clause does not apply here.

Do not travel to Massachusetts if you even imagine you might have an empty cartridge case in your car. Your car will be confiscated and you will get a room in jail.

But who knows, maybe someday liberty will "break-out".

Al, in occupied Massachusetts

* * *

Dear NJM,

The Art Bell Coast-to-Coast have been doing a great job getting the information out on the New World Order so please tell the readers to tune in.

www.SteveQualye.com

www.infowars.com Alex Jones

H.R. 2038 gun ban, we can win this but people have to call and write on it. God wins and we are on his side so let's act like winners.

Yahweh bless,

ZZ

* * *

"I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do. What I can do, I should do. And what I should do, by the grace of God, I will do." - Edward Everett Hale

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